

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 SPC-03 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20

IGA-02 IO-14 DRC-01 EB-11 /110 W

----- 103584

R 121045Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9840

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, VS

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GVN FOOD AGENCY

1. ON DECEMBER 9 IN MOVE EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PREVIOUS PURCHASING ARM OF GVN, THE GENERAL SUPPLY AGENCY, (GSA) IS NOW SUPPLANTED BY NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY (NFA).

2. GSA'S PRIME FUNCTIONS WERE TO HANDLE RICE IMPROTS, TO COORDINATE THE PURCHASE OF DOMESTIC RICE SUPPLIES FOR THE GVN, AND TO PROVIDE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RICE TO CIVIL SERVANTS, REFUGEES, MILITARY QUARTERMASTERS AND-TO A LIMITED EXTENT-CENTRAL VIETNAM MERCHANTS. HOWEVER, AS THE RICE PRICE AND MOVEMENTS CONTROL SYSTEM ESTABLISHED AUGUST 24 EXPANDED, GSA FOUND ITSELF WITH WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDING PURCHASE, FINANCING, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE GREAT BULK OF RICE SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. BLAME FOR SHORTCOMINGS IN RICE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS WAS INCREASINGLY LAID ON GSA. GSA AND PARTICULARLY ITS HEAD, LE VAN KIM

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WERE SEVERELY ATTACKED IN THE PRESS.

3. DECREE ESTABLISHING NFA GIVES IT WIDE POWERS OVER COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION NOT ONLY OF RICE BUT OF OTHER FOODS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL INITIALLY SIMPLY TAKE OVER GSA'S RECENT FUNCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO RICE, AND THE EXTENT OF OPERATIONS ON OTHER FOODSTUFFS HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

4. DR. TRAN QUANG MINH HAS BEEN NAMED AS HEAD OF NFA. MINH WAS ONLY RECENTLY APPOINTED AS VICE-MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND HE NOW LEAVES THAT POST. A SUCCESSOR HAS NOT BEEN CHOSEN. IN HIS NEW JOB MINH WILL REPORT TO MINITER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

5. ONE OF MINH'S FIRST TASKS WILL BE TO HELP DETERMINE, AND THEN EXECUTE, GVN RICE POLICY FOR 1974. MINH WENT TO CAN THO DECEMBER 11 FOR DISCUSSION WITH MF-4 COMMANDER GENERAL NGHIA, PRESUMABLY ON THIS SUBJECT. MARTIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, FOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON20779  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
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**Line Count:** 77  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GVN FOOD AGENCY  
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